

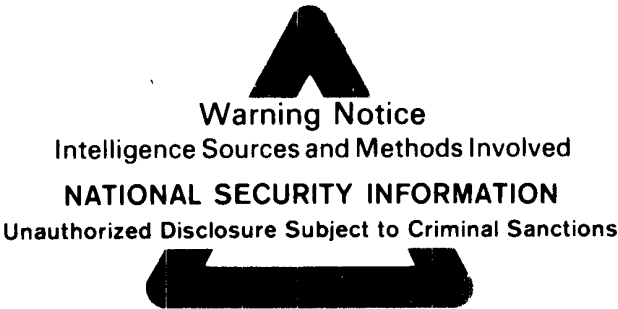
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NPIC/IEG (7/83)

12 JULY 1983

**ZAPAD-83 RIVER CROSSING EXERCISE**  
**BORISOV ARMY BARRACKS WEST AL-1, USSR (SWN)**

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1. **SIGNIFICANCE:** DURING THE LATTER STAGES OF THE WARSAW PACT EXERCISE ZAPAD-83 A RIVER CROSSING EXERCISE INVOLVING THE AMPHIBIOUS BRIDGING SYSTEM (TRACKED), ABS (T), WAS OBSERVED NEAR BORISOV ARMY BARRACKS WEST AL-1. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THE ABS (T) WAS SEEN OPERATIONALLY DEPLOYED ON SATELLITE IMAGERY. (SWN)
2. **REMARKS:** ON [ ] FIVE ABS (T) VEHICLES WERE CONNECTED ACROSS A WATER OBSTACLE IN A TRAINING AREA ADJACENT TO BORISOV AL-1 TO FORM A PONTON-TYPE BRIDGE. THE ABS (T) CAN BE EMPLOYED AS A FERRY SIMILAR TO THE GSP HEAVY FERRY OR AS A RIBBON BRIDGE SIMILAR TO THE PMP PONTON BRIDGE. A PMP BRIDGE WAS ALSO DEPLOYED AT A SECOND CROSSING SITE UPSTREAM FROM THE ABS (T). (SWN)

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MULTIPLE SIGHTINGS OF ABS (T) VEHICLES HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GROUND OBSERVATIONS IN THE BORISOV AREA, BUT UNTIL NOW NO SUCH SIGHTINGS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED ON SATELLITE IMAGERY. BORISOV AL-1 HOUSES THE 34TH TANK DIVISION WHICH IS A CATEGORY III DIVISION. BORISOV HEADQUARTERS TANK DIVISION/ARMY BARRACKS AL-2 [ ], ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF TOWN FROM BORISOV AL-1, HOUSES THE 45TH GUARDS TANK DIVISION WHICH IS A CATEGORY III TRAINING DIVISION. THE SUBORDINATION OF THE ABS (T) IN THE TRAINING AREA IS UNDETERMINED. (SWN)

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ON [ ] WHILE ZAPAD-83 WAS IN PROGRESS, ABS (T) SUBORDINATE TO THE 120TH GUARDS MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION (GMRD) AT MINSK HEADQUARTERS MOTORIZED DIVISION/ARMY BARRACKS AL-1/SA-6 FACILITY [ ] WERE ABSENT FROM GARRISON. THE DIVISION RETURNED TO GARRISON ON [ ] BUT THE PRESENCE OF THE ABS (T) COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED. THE 120TH GMRD, GARRISONED 38 NM SOUTHWEST OF BORISOV, IS THE ONLY UNIT IN THE BELORUSSIAN MILITARY DISTRICT WHERE THE PRESENCE OF THE ABS (TRACKED OR WHEELED) HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. (SWN) [ ]

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3.  COORDINATES 54-14-04N 028-28-19E (S)

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4. COLLATERAL REFERENCE -- DIA, WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE STRUCTURE  
TROOP LIST WESTERN TVD (U) VOLUME V, DDB-1100-373-83, APRIL  
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